

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 1057

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: FLANK SECURITY

REF: A) STATE 271521; B) USNATO 6930, DTG 121230Z DEC 74; (C)
USNATO 4996, DTG 161740Z SEP 74; D) USNATO 5200, DTG 242030Z
SEPP 74; E) STATE 221663

SUMMARY: TURKISH REP AT SPC MEETINGS ON MBFR ON FEBRUARY 24
PRIVATELY APPROACHED MISSION OFFICER REGARDING DESIRABILITY
OF SPC RESUMPTION OF WORK ON GUIDANCE ON AHG ON FLANK SECURITY.
THAT WORK WAS SUSPENDED IN SEPTEMBER DUE TO IMPASSE ON THE
PHRASE CONCERNING GEOGRAPHIC AREA WHERE WITHDRAWN FORCES WOULD
NOT REDEPLOY, AND DUE TO NEED TO WORK ON OTHER
ISSUES. THIS MESSAGE REVIEWS FACTORS WHICH MAY INFLUENCE U.S.
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VIEWS ON TIMING OF SPC RETURN TO FLANK SECURITY, AND REQUESTS
GUIDANCE.
END SUMMARY.

1. AT END OF FEBRUARY 24 SPC MEETING ON MBFR ISSUES, TURKISH REP (GUR) APPROACHED U.S. REP (MOORE), AND ASKED IF WASHINGTON WAS RE-EXAMINING THE U.S. POSITION ON GUIDANCE ON AHG ON FLANK SECURITY. U.S. REP REPLIED THAT U.S. POSITION REMAINED AS PREVIOUSLY STATED IN SPC (I.E. SUPPORT FOR THE BELGIAN COMPROMISE FORMULATION, INCLUDING ITS GENERAL LANGUAGE ABOUT THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS WHERE WITHDRAWN FORCES WOULD NOT REDEPLOY, AND OPPOSITION TO THE ALTERNATIVE ITALIAN LANGUAGE PRECISELY DEFINING THOSE AREAS AS THE AREAS ADJACENT TO THE REDUCTIONS AREA AND TO THE TERRITORY OF SPECIAL PARTICIPANTS).

2. TURKISH REP SAID THAT IT MIGHT NOW BE DESIRABLE FOR SPC TO RESUME WORK ON GUIDANCE TO AHG. U.S. REP INQUIRED WHY THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME, NOTING HIS IMPRESSION THAT SPC WAS STILL ABOUT EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN THE BELGIAN AND ITALIAN PHRASES ON GEOGRAPHIC AREAS; HE KNEW, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT ITALIANS STILL STRONGLY SUPPORTED THEIR FORMULATION. TURKISH REP ACKNOWLEDGED THIS. HE SAID HE HAD SPOKEN TO ITALIAN DELEGATION OFFICERS ON THE PREVIOUS DAY, AND THEY CONTINUED TO UPHOLD THEIR PHRASING. THEY TOLD HIM ITALIANS HAD MADE DEMARCHE IN WASHINGTON IN FAVOR OF THEIR FORMULATION BUT WITHOUT RESULT (COMMENT: MISSION ASSUMES THIS WAS THE CONVERSATION DESCRIBED IN REF A).

3. TURKISH REP NOTED, AS HE DID AT SPC LAST SUMMER, THAT TUKEY CAN ACCEPT THE BELGIAN LANGUAGE, ALTHOUGH IT PREFERS THE ITALIAN ALTERNATIVE. HE SAID TURKEY RECOGNIZES THAT ITALY PUT FORWARD ITS FORMULATION NOT TO MEET ANY FLANK CONCERN, BUT AS A WAY OF PREVENTING REDEPLOYMENT OF WITHDRAWN FORCES TO HUNGARY WHILE NOT PLACING ANY SIMILAR RESTRICTION ON ITALY. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, SPC HAS NOT DISCUSSED FLANK SECURITY SINCE SEPTEMBER, AND HE KNEW HIS AUTHORITIES HOPED FOR PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE. HE AND U.S. REP SAID THEY WOULD REMAIN IN TOUCH ON THIS QUESTION.

4. COMMENT: AS MISSION POINTED OUT IN REF B, LAST SPC DISCUSSION OF FLANK SECURITY WAS SEPT 23. SPC HAS NOT RETURNED TO THE SUBJECT SINCE THEN BECAUSE SPC WAS ABOUT EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN
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BELGIAN AND ITALIAN LANGUAGE ON GEOGRAPHIC AREAS, WITH NO INDICATION OF MOVEMENT TOWARD EITHER FORMULATION, AND BECAUSE OF NEED TO DEVOTE TIME TO OTHER ISSUES. TEXT OF LATEST VERSION OF DRAFT GUIDANCE TO AHG (BASED ON BELGIAN FORMULATION), AND LATEST NATIONAL POSITIONS ARE DESCRIBED IN REFS C AND D. MISSION HAS SUPPLEMENTARY WASHINGTON GUIDANCE (REF E) FOR USE WHEN ALLIES DECIDE TO RETURN TO THIS SUBJECT.

5. SPC WILL OF COURSE NEED TO RETURN TO THE FLANK ISSUE AT SOME POINT, AND THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHEN. MISSION BELIEVES THE U.S. COULD NOT OPPOSE A FLANK PROPOSAL TO RESUME WORK ON FLANK SECURITY, BUT U.S. CAN INFLUENCE THE TIMING OF A RETURN TO FLANK SECURITY IN LOW KEY WAY BOTH IN WORK WITH OTHER DELGATIONS AND

IF NECESSARY IN SPC. MISSION SEES THE FOLLOWING AS FACTORS
GOVERNING U.S. VIEWS ON TIMING OF SPC RETURN TO FLANK SECURITY.

6. THE CURRENT STATE OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS MAKES A
RESUMPTION OF SPC WORK ON MBFR FLANK SECURITY APPEAR INCONGRUOUS,
TO SAY THE LEAST. ON THE OTHER HAND, FLANK SECURITY IS AN ISSUE
WHICH REMINDS GREECE AND TURKEY OF THEIR COMMON SECURITY REQUIRE-
MENTS. THE SPC LAST WORKED ON THIS ISSUE IN JULY, AUGUST AND
SEPT 1974, DESPITE THE GREEK-TURKISH SITUATION AT THAT TIME.

7. THE SPC IN COMING MONTHS WILL HAVE OTHER, HIGH PRIORITY WORK
TODO IN RESPONSE TO THE AHG DEC 12 REQUEST FOR NEW GUIDANCE.
ONE OF THE SUBJECTS ON WHICH THE AHG REQUESTED NEW GUIDANCE AS
FLANK SECURITY. ANY U.S. COMMENT ON PRIORITIES FOR GUIDANCE TO
AHG SHOULD OF COURSE AVOID THE IMPRESSION THAT FLANK SECURITY HAS
A LOW PRIORITY.

8. PROGRESS ON GUIDANCE TO AHG ON FLANK SECURITY MIGHT HAVE SOME
VALUE IN ADVANCING U.S. POSITIONS IN OTHER AREAS OF MBFR. MISSION
HAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TURKISH CONCERN THAT GUIDANCE TO AHG ON
AIR MANPOWER TAKE ACCOUNT OF FLANK INTERESTS, AND TURKS WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE SIMILAR STANCE IF AND WHEN U.S. INTRODUCES
OPTION III. PROGRESS ON GENERAL FORMULATION ON FLANK SECURITY
ITSELF MAY HELP MEET TURKISH CONCERNS IN THESE OTHER AREAS AS WELL.

9. IN ANY EVENT, RESUMPTION OF SPC WORK ON FLANK SECURITY, GIVEN
THE PRESENT LINEUP OF NATIONAL POSITIONS, WOULD PROBABLY RESULT
IN RECOGNITION THAT THE IMPASSE CONTINUED, WITH FLANK SECURITY
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DROPPED AGAIN FROM THE SPC AGENDA AFTER A BRIEF PERIOD. IF SPC
WERE TO RETURN TO WORK ON FLANK SECURITY, THE MOST LIKELY WAY THE
U.S. COULD HELP ADVANCE THE WORK WOULD BE THROUGH A DEMARCHE WITH
THE ITALIANS, PREFERABLY BOTH HERE AND IN ROME; SUCH A DEMARCHE
WOULD STRESS U.S. SUPPORT FOR BELIGAN FORMULATION, U.S. INABILITY
TO ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVE ITALIAN LANGUAGE ON GEOGRAPHIC AREAS,
AND U.S. INTEREST IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM OF HUNGARY IN THE
CONTEXT OF NON-CIRCUMVENTION. ITALY DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE A
STRONG INTEREST IN MAINTAINING ITS ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE ON
GEOGRAPHIC AREAS, AS LONG AS PROBLEM OF HUNGARY CAN BE RESOLVED
IN ANOTHER CONTEXT, AND A SHIFT IN ITALIAN POSITION COULD HAVE
FAVORABLE IMPACT ON THE OTHER SUPPORTERS OF THE ITALIAN ALTERNATIVE
LANGUAGE.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON VIEWS
ON TIMING OF RETURN TO SPC WORK ON FLANK SECURITY, FOR USE WITH
TURKISH AND OTHER DELEGATIONS AS APPROPRIATE. MCAULIFFE

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